

Message Text

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61/47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 107750

P R 091630Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1782

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08715

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- PARA TWO--

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: NAC DISCUSSION OF OPTION III

REFS: STATE 132093 AND 133047

1. WE TALKED TO TICKELL ON JUNE 6 ABOUT PRESENTATION TO NAC OF "U.S. VIEWS" PAPER. WE NOTED THAT U.S. DID NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE EXTENSIVE EXCHANGES ON DETAILS OF U.S. PROPOSAL AT INITIAL PRESENTATION. TICKELL SAID HE TOOK OUR POINT.

2. IN DISCUSSING U.S. VIEWS PAPER, TICKELL SAID THAT THE U.S. APPEARED TO HAVE IGNORED THE BRITISH VIEWS ON THE CONCEPT OF THE COMMON CEILING SET OUT IN THEIR PAPER OF MAY 8. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GO INTO THE ISSUE AGAIN DURING CONSULTATIONS IN NATO; OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID THE TRILATERALS HAD NOT RESOLVED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ON THAT SUBJECT. CONTINUING, HE SAID THAT CEILINGS AND CONSTRAINTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED CAREFULLY IN NATO. THE BRITISH HAVE SOME IDEAS WHICH THEY WILL DISCUSS WITH US BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED APPROVAL WITHIN HMG. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPELL THEM OUT,

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HE SAID THEY ARE NOT THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE U.S.

SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY HE DID NOT THINK NATO CONSULTATION LEADING TO AN AGREED ALLIED POSITION COULD BE CONCLUDED QUICKLY. THE BRITISH INTEND TO REITERATE THE VIEWS WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED TO THE U.S. PRIMARILY ON THE CONCEPT OF THE COMMON CEILING AND CEILINGS AND CONSTRAINTS. HE THOUGHT IT WAS REALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS WOULD REQUIRE TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

3. TICKELL THEN REPEATED WITH EMPHASIS WHAT HE AND KILLICK HAD TOLD US EARLIER LAST WEEK, NAMELY, THAT THE BRITISH ARE NOT GOING TO DELAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR THE SAKE OF DELAY. THEY WANT TO GET THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL CONSULTATION SO THAT THE WEST CAN DEPLOY A NEGOTIATING POSITION WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES IN VIENNA. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE IN THE FALL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE. HE SAID POINTEDLY THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN WOULD NOT WISH TO DELAY NATO CONSULTATIONS EXCEPT TO GET THE RIGHT SOLUTION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE EXAMINATION OF MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OPTION III, TICKELL ALSO REITERATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD US PREVIOUSLY: BRITISH WILL NOT PUSH USE OF MBFR WORKING GROUP. THEY INSIST ONLY, AS STATED IN THEIR MINISTERIALLY APPROVED PAPER OF MAY 8, THAT MILITARY AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS BE FULLY ASSESSED BY APPROPRIATE ALLIED MACHINERY. A GROUP DEPENDENT ON SPC WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO BRITISH. IF SPC WERE REINFORCED BY EXPERTS, BRITISH WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEND EXPERTS

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 091630Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1783

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08715

EXDIS

FROM UK NATO RATHER THAN LONDON. ON JUNE 9 WE TOOK UP WITH TICKELL SUGGESTION IN STATE 133047. HE THOUGHT SPC MIGHT BE BURDENED IF ITS MEETINGS ALSO DEALT WITH IMPLICATIONS. HE THEREFORE SEEMED TO FAVOR (BUT WAS NON-COMMITAL) U.S. SUGGESTION THAT APPROPRIATE AD HOC BODY MIGHT EXAMINE THESE ASPECTS. WE THINK BRITISH DO NOT YET HAVE FIRM IDEAS ABOUT MACHINERY AND THAT THEY WILL NOT BE STICKY ABOUT FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF MILITARY AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS AS LONG AS THEY FEEL ASSURED THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE APPROPRIATELY CONSIDERED.

5. COMMENT: IT STRIKES US THAT THERE MAY BE A FINE DISTINCTION BETWEEN U.S. WISH FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSULTATION ON OPTION III AND THE BRITISH CONTENTION THAT CAREFUL STUDY OF MILITARY AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS IS IMPERATIVE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE AS TO HOW THE APPARENT DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS BETWEEN U.S. AND UK VIEWS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO TRY TO RECONCILE OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TO THE HANDLING OF OPTION III PROMPTLY SO AS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND POSSIBLE FRICTIONS DURING DEVELOPMENT OF ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION. A BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THIS REGARD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROY HATTERSLEY, MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MBFR AT FCO MAY
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BE IN WASHINGTON, BUT HIS VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED DUE TO SPECULATION ABOUT AN IMMINENT CABINET RESHUFFLE. IF HATTERSLEY SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TIMELY IF SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS COULD HAVE A FRANK TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HANDLING OF OPTION III IN NATO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLICIES, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS, OPTION III
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON08715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750201-0005
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750669/aaaackpw.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 132093, 75 AND 133047
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: NAC DISCUSSION OF OPTION III
TAGS: PARM, US, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006